

CITY OF MARIETTA/BLW PENSION BOARD MEETING (CORRECTED)

Wednesday, August 11, 2021
9:00 AM – Council Chamber

MEETING MINUTES (UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED)

Members Present:

Post 1: Bill Bruton	Post 2: Joseph Goldstein
Post 3: Cheryl Richardson	Post 4: Rich Buss
Post 5: Patina Brown	Post 6: Bruce Bishop
Post 7: Scott Reece	Post 8: Patrick Bonito
Post 9: Bobby Moss	

Absent:

None

Ex Officio Members:

Davy Godfrey – Pension Board Secretary and Director, Human Resources & Risk Management
Sam Lady – Pension Board Treasurer and Finance Director
Tim Milligan – Fire Chief

Visitors / Guests

Ian Janecek – CBIZ (General Pension Consultant)
Scott Arnwine – CBIZ (General Pension Consultant)
Paul Murray – AndCo Consulting (Supplemental Pension Consultant)
Read Gignilliat – Elarbee Thompson (Pension Attorney)
Elizabeth Jacobs – Benefits Manager
Pam Peacock – Executive Aide to City Manager
Ronnie Barrett – Director of IT

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bobby Moss declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

Chairman Moss asked for consideration of a motion to move items 5 and 6 (the pension reports) to after item 2 as they are external presenters.

A motion was made by Member Buss to move items 5 and 6 on the agenda to after item 2, and seconded by Chairman Moss.

The motion carried by the following vote: 9-0-0.

LEGAL MATTERS:

Chairman Moss recognized Read Gignilliat to discuss pension overpayment recoupment options. Secretary Godfrey had also provided the members with guidance from Doug Haynie. Discussion centered on the process beginning with a demand letter and eventually taking it to Magistrate Court. Member Richardson pointed out that we could also see if the estates have been opened for claims of debt to be filed against them with the City of Marietta as a creditor. After much discussion, Chairman Moss advised Secretary Godfrey of the Board's consensus to follow these procedures until court filings and then bring those back to the Board for action.

The next topic was one of the Open Meetings Act and how it applies to subcommittees of the Pension Board, namely the Calculation Committee and the recent Preretirement Death Benefits Study Group. Gignilliat advised the members of what is in the law, with points of discussion from Member Goldstein

regarding requirements concerning email traffic. It was determined to formally appoint the Preretirement Death Benefits Study Group and publish meeting dates in advance to comply with the Act (as Member Buss had already done in anticipation of the requirement), but to dissolve the Calculation Committee and utilize the City Manager's power to designate those same individuals as approval authorities for pension payments in accordance with Article X, Section 5 of each pension plan. The Secretary would prepare a designation memo for the City Manager's signature.

A motion was made by Member Buss to appoint Bruce Bishop, Rich Buss, and Patrick Bonito to the Preretirement Death Benefits Subcommittee and seconded by Member Bruton.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **8-0-1 (Member Richardson abstained).***

A motion was made by Member Buss to dissolve the Calculation Committee and seconded by Member Richardson.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **9-0-0.***

GENERAL PENSION REPORT – CBIZ:

Chairman Moss recognized Ian Janeczek from CBIZ, who then presented the General Pension Report for the 2nd quarter of calendar year 2021, along with Scott Arnwine.

Secretary Godfrey presented the securities monitoring report as well as the fiscal year 2021 statement excerpt showing litigation proceeds received by the pension fund and any outstanding claims.

SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION REPORT – AndCo Consulting:

Chairman Moss recognized Paul Murray from AndCo Consulting, who then presented the Supplemental Pension Report for the 2nd quarter of calendar year 2021. Murray also indicated that he would file an RFI seeking information on lowering our administration and recordkeeping fees.

MINUTES:

May 12, 2021, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Member Buss to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021, Regular Meeting and seconded by Member Bishop.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **8-0-1 (Member Richardson abstained).***

PENSION EDUCATION UPDATE:

Secretary Godfrey provided the Board with a pension education update. Out of the 12 individuals who are required to complete it, 10 are current and in a new cycle with the remaining 2 finishing up hours in the current cycle. The final due date for the remaining two members is September 1, 2021. He also reminded members of the annual GAPPT conference at Callaway Gardens from September 19-22, 2021.

RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS – Secretary Godfrey:

1. William Swafford – Effective 06/01/2021
Consolidated – Unreduced Early
Single Life Only
Employed: 12/10/1981 – 05/31/2021
Total Service: 39 years 5 months
Total Credited Service: 35 years
Monthly Benefit: \$3754.35
Foreperson Warehouse
2. Belinda McCoy – Effective 07/01/2021
Consolidated – Unreduced Early
Single Life Only
Employed: 08/28/2000 – 06/30/2021
Total Service: 20 years 10 months
Total Credited Service: 20 years 10 months
Monthly Benefit: \$1489.28
Deputy Court Clerk III
3. Joyce Brown – Effective 07/01/2021
Consolidated – Unreduced Early
Single Life Only
Employed: 10/27/1986 – 06/30/2021
Total Service: 34 years 8 months
Total Credited Service: 34 years 11 months
Monthly Benefit: \$4741.17
Tax Manager

Secretary Godfrey presented the three retirement applications.

A motion was made by Member Richardson to approve all three retirement applications and seconded by Member Goldstein.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **8-0-0.***

Secretary Godfrey then briefed the Board on the current pension verification process. LexisNexis flagged 128 retirees with possible incorrect addresses. We have established contact with 105 of those. Out of those, 91 did not actually have an incorrect address, with 14 of them confirming incorrect addresses. We sent the retirees the address change paperwork. All of the phone numbers the City maintains are correct. The monthly death checks discovered the following: March 2021: 3 vested participants to be removed, June 2021: 1 retiree to be removed. Out of the 13 disability retirees requiring recertification, we have heard from two who are in the process (due date of 31 August 2021). Regarding the previously employed vested participants, LexisNexis flagged 121 possible incorrect addresses, and HR has begun working through the list to confirm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Moss recognized Member Buss to present the options/recommendations reviewed by the preretirement death benefits subcommittee. The discussion centered around the amount of the benefit, eligibility, and modeling it after Social Security Death Benefits. The discussion also included an option to allow a retiree to irrevocably terminate survivor benefits in retirement as long as the pop-up option was originally selected. After extensive discussion, the Board determined to move forward in requesting a study through the actuary on specific options. Some members indicated that, while they supported studying the options, they would not support it in the long run if it negatively impacted the plan.

A motion was made by Member Buss to have the actuary review studying preretirement death benefits for active, vested employees, multiplying years of credited service by the 2.1% multiplier, the benefit will not exceed 50% using that formula, and calculated using the average of the most recent three years of earnings. Additionally, the widow/widower must be at least 55 years of age or have a child under age 18, with the benefits stopping once the child turns 18 and not resuming until the surviving spouse is at least 55 years of age. Motion seconded by Member Richardson.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **9-0-0**.*

A motion was made by Member Buss to add the following provisions to the study: The spouse must have been married to the deceased for at least one year at the time of death, the benefit ends upon the surviving spouse's remarriage, and allowing the unmarried child of the deceased to receive the benefit if there is no surviving parent and, if there is more than one child, the total benefits will not exceed the 50% figure. Additionally, to have the actuary study the impact of allowing retirees to irrevocably terminate survivor benefits in retirement as long as the pop-up option was originally selected. Motion seconded by Member Richardson.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **9-0-0**.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Moss opened a discussion regarding pension election or appointment procedures that was briefly mentioned at the May meeting. Discussion centered around amending the plan to no longer require that three people to be nominated to run for an expiring or open seat in the police or fire departments or for two per seat for the general employees, with the respective chiefs or the City Manager recommending names in the case of unexpected vacancies. These changes would also eliminate the need for nominating committees, instead having a single point of contact administer the elections and submit the names to the Pension Board Secretary for placement on the agenda for Council appointment.

A motion was made by Member Bishop to have the Secretary make the discussed changes to the ordinance, obtain approval from the Chairman, and place them on the Council Agenda for approval, and seconded by Member Bonito.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **6-0-3 (Members Bruton, Goldstein, and Richardson abstained)**.*

Chairman Moss recognized Secretary Godfrey, who then briefed the Board regarding a request from Chris Reynolds with RiskBridge Advisors so that he may present the Board with information regarding OCIO (Outsourced Chief Investment Officer Services). After some discussion regarding the service they offer based on what Mr. Reynolds relayed to Secretary Godfrey, Chairman Moss asked for a motion to allow him to present.

A motion was made by Member Richardson to hear Chris Reynolds' presentation at the November meeting and seconded by Member Goldstein.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **5-3-1 (Members Reece, Bonito, and Bishop voting against, Vice Chairman Brown abstained).***

FUTURE ESTABLISHED MEETINGS:

November 10, 2021, Regular Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Member Richardson to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Member Goldstein.

*The motion carried by the following vote: **9-0-0.** Meeting was adjourned at 12:51pm.*

CITY OF MARIETTA/BLW PENSION BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021
9:00 AM – Council Chamber**

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022

Bobby Moss, Pension Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Davy Godfrey, Pension Board Secretary